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Address

Of the Canadian Citizens of Oregon to the meeting at Champoeg, March 4th, 1843.

We, the Canadian citizens of the Willamette, considering with interest and reflection, the subject which unites the people at the present meeting, present to the american citizens, and particularly to the gentlemen who called said meeting, the unanimous expression of our sentiments of cordiality, desire of union, and unchangeable peace between all the people, in view of our duty and the interest of the new colony, and declare—

1st That we wish for laws or regulations for the welfare of our persons and the security of our prosperity and labors.

2d That we do not intend to rebel against the measures of that kind taken last year, by a party of the people, although we do not approve of certain regulations, nor certain modes of laws — let those magistrates finish their time

3d That we will not address a new petition to the Government of the United States, because we have our reasons, till the line be decided and the frontiers of the states fixed.

4th That we are opposed to the regulations anticipated, and opposed to consequences for the quantity, direction, &c of lands, and whatever expense for the same lands, because we have no direct guarantee from the Government to come, and perhaps tomorrow, all those measures may be broken.

5th — That we do not wish a provisional mode of Government, too selfinterested, and full of degrees, useless to our powers, and overloading the colony instead of improving it — besides — men of laws and sciences are too scarce, and have too much to do in such a new country,

6th That we wish either the mode of Senate or Council, to judge the difficulties, punish the Crimes (except capital punishments) and make the regulations suitable for the people

7th That the same Council be elected and composed of members from all parts of the country, and should act in body, on the plan of civilized countries in Parliament, or as a jury, and to be represented, for example, by the President of said council and another

number as Judge of Peace in each county, allowing the principle of recalling to the whole Senate.

8th That the members should be influenced to interest themselves to their own welfare and that of the public, by the love of doing good, rather than by the hope of gain; in order to take off from the esteem of the people all suspicions of interest in the persons of their representatives

9th That they must avoid every law loading, and inexpedient to the people especialy to the new arrivals. Unnecesary taxes, and whatever records are of that kind, we do not want them.

10th. That the militia is useless at present, and rather a danger of bad suspicion to the Indians, and a delay for the necessary labors; in the same time it is a load — we do not want it either at present.

11th. That we consider the country free at present to all nations till Government shall have decided; open to every individual wishing to settle, without any distinction of origin, and without asking him anything, either to become an English Spanish or american citizen.

12th. So we english subjects proclaim to be free as well as those who come from France, California, United States, or even natives of this country; and we desire union with all the respectable citizens who wish to settle in this country — or we ask to be recognized as free amongst ourselves to make such regulations as appear suitable to our wants, save the general

interest of having justice from all strangers who might injure us, and that our reasonable customs and pretensions be respected

13th That we are willing to submit to any lawful government when it comes

14th That we do not forget that we must make laws only for necessary circumstances. The more laws there are, the more opportunities for roguery for those who make a practice of it — and perhaps, the more alterations there will be some day

15th That we do not forget in a trial, that before all Israel on fulfilling some points of the law, the ordinary proofs of the certainty of the fact ought to be duly weighed, so that justice may be done, and no chance given for fraud.

16th In a new country, the more men employed and paid by the public, the less remains for industry

17th That no one can be more desirous than we are for the prosperity, ameliorations, and general peace of the country, and especially for the guaranty of our rights and liberties — and such is the wish we make for all those who are, or may become our fellow-countrymen &c. For long years of peace

Then follow our names and persons